

*The Catholic Parishes of Branxton & Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle*

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B      WORD OF GOD SUNDAY      7 February 2021**

**First Reading**                      **Jb 7:1-4, 6-7**  
*A reading from the book of Job.*

Job began to speak:  
Is not man's life on earth nothing more  
than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his  
wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to  
me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be  
day?'  
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening  
comes!'  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days  
have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see  
joy.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**    **Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3**

**(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the  
broken-hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving;  
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem  
and brings back Israel's exiles,  
he heals the broken-hearted,  
he binds up all their wounds.  
He fixes the number of the stars;  
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**

Our Lord is great and almighty;  
his wisdom can never be measured.  
The Lord raises the lowly;  
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**    **1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23**  
*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel,  
since it is a duty which has been laid on  
me; I should be punished if I did not  
preach it! If I had chosen this work myself,  
I might have been paid for it, but as I have  
not, it is a responsibility which has been  
put into my hands. Do you know what my  
reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be  
able to offer the Good News free, and not

insist on the rights which the gospel gives  
me.  
So though I am not a slave of any man I  
have made myself the slave of everyone  
so as to win as many as I could. For the  
weak I made myself weak. I made myself  
all things to all men in order to save some  
at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake  
of the gospel, to have a share in its  
blessings.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**                      **Mk 1:15**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**    **Mk 1:29-39**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went  
with James and John straight to the house  
of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's  
mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever,  
and they told him about her straightaway.  
He went to her, took her by the hand and  
helped her up. And the fever left her and  
she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought  
to him all who were sick and those who  
were possessed by devils. The whole town  
came crowding round the door, and he  
cured many who were suffering from  
diseases of one kind or another; he also  
cast out many devils, but he would not  
allow them to speak, because they knew  
who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got  
up and left the house, and went off to a  
lonely place and prayed there. Simon and  
his companions set out in search of him,  
and when they found him they said,  
'Everybody is looking for you.' He  
answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the  
neighbouring country towns, so that I can  
preach there too, because that is why I  
came.' And he went all through Galilee,  
preaching in their synagogues and casting  
out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



**REFLECTION**

by Fr Michael Tate

*The Divine Touch*

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was  
sick in bed with a raging fever. When  
Jesus learned about her distressed state,  
he 'took her by the hand and helped her  
up'. He broke the taboo about physical  
contact with a woman not his relative  
because he wanted to holistically heal her  
dis-ease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an  
aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt  
quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand  
reassuring her of sociable relationships.  
Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-  
ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical  
gesture at the greeting of Peace. This  
quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease  
with a family member or just with the  
neighbour in the pew. We need to take  
that symbolic action into the world. For  
somebody, it may be the most touching  
thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify  
that person who needs us to reach out, to  
take their hand and help them up.

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# Prayer Requests

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God who made us,  
for he is the Lord our God.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,  
his wonders for the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

**1st Reading:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

**2nd Reading:** 1 Cor 10:31- 11:1

**Gospel:** Mk 1:40-45



**Sick:** Pat Behringer, Bernadette Coffey, Bill Damstra, Janice Haines, Austin Hoffman, Helen Conlin, Anne Standing, Alan Thomas, John Thomas, Gloria Trunk, Lorraine Winter, Jane Winsor O'Keefe and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

**Anniversaries:** Brian Dagg, Adele Davis, Harold Stocks. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

**Recently Deceased:** Kay Hungerford. **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

**Baptisms:** Blake Vardanega (St Patrick's Singleton, Sunday) **Called by name to be a child of God.**

## Parish Contacts

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| Parish Priest   | <b>Fr Thomas Chirackal</b>                  | Presbytery: 6578 9651   | Email: <a href="mailto:Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au">Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au</a>  |
| Assistant Priest  | <b>Fr Anthony Coloma</b>                    | Presbytery: 6578 9650   | Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au">anthony.coloma@mn.catholic.org.au</a>  |
| Parish Secretary  | <b>Mrs Erica Janssen</b>                    | Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm)<br>Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au">singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au</a><br>Web: <a href="http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au">www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au</a> |
| Facebook  | Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton |   | singletonbranxton<br>@parish_sb  |
|   |   | <b>YouTube</b>  |  |
|   |   | <b>Twitter</b>  |  |
| <b>St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b> |   |   |  |
| Singleton   | St Patrick's Church                         | Queen Street Singleton 2330   | Contact: 02 5507 4048  |
| Broke   | Immaculate Conception Catholic Church       | Wollombi Street, Broke  | Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299  |
| Glendon Brook   | St. Paul's Catholic Church                  | 874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook  | Contact: 6577 6168   |
| <b>St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)</b>  |   |   |  |
| Branxton  | St Brigid's Catholic Church                 | Station St, Branxton 2335   | Contact: 0407 381 525  |
| Greta   | St Catherine's Catholic Church              | Branxton Street, Greta 2334   | Contact: 0428 485 025  |

## Schools in our Parishes

|                                       |   |                           |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| St. Catherine's Catholic College      | <b>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</b>          | K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600 | Email: <a href="mailto:admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au">admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au</a>     |
| Rosary Park Catholic School           | <b>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</b> | K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541  | Email: <a href="mailto:admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au">admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au</a> |
| St Nicholas Early Education Singleton | <b>Director: Ms Amy Hunter</b>              | Office: 02 4015 2860      | Email: <a href="mailto:singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au">singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>         |
| St Nicholas Early Education Branxton  | <b>Director: Ms Natalie James</b>           | Office: 02 4931 1220      | Email: <a href="mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au">branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au</a>           |

## Mass Roster Sunday 14 February 2021

|   | Branxton Saturday 6pm    | Greta Sunday 8am | Singleton Sunday 7am     | Singleton Sunday 10am | Singleton Sunday 6pm                | Counters                                |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Welcomer</b>                             | L Sneesby Tooth          | D & J Clarke     | J Walker<br>C Crow       | J Dries               |                                     |   |
| <b>Commentator</b>                          |                          | L Gorczyca       | G Cattermole             | J Patton              | E Janssen                           |   |
| <b>Readers</b>                              | C Trunk<br>C Szumilas    | M Ingold         | J Duldulao<br>H Duldulao | T Cochrane            | T Janssen<br>H Janssen<br>N Janssen |   |
| <b>Prayers</b>                              |                          | L Gorczyca       | P Boyd                   | F King                | E Janssen                           | 2 Welcomers are required each week.     |
| <b>Offertory</b>                            | N Bendeich<br>E Bendeich | T Ernst          | C O'Connor<br>J Cox      |                       |                                     |   |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b> |                          |                  |                          |                       |                                     | NO Ministers of Communion are required. |

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the particular ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  | Sunday   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>8 February</b><br><i>St Jerome Emiliani</i><br><i>St Josephine Bakhita</i> | <b>9 February</b>   | <b>10 February</b><br><i>St Scholastica</i>        | <b>11 February</b><br><i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>   | <b>12 February</b>  | <b>13 February</b>  | <b>14 February</b><br>6 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B                                  |
| <u>8.00am</u><br>Mass   | <u>6.00pm</u><br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton                          | <u>9.20am</u><br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | <u>6.00pm</u><br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton | <u>9.20am</u><br>Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton<br><u>11.00am</u><br>Mass<br>Elizabeth Gates | <u>9.00am</u> Novena<br><u>9.20am</u> Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton             | <u>7.00am</u> Mass<br><u>10.00am</u> Mass<br>FIESTA<br><u>6.00pm</u> Mass<br>St Patrick's<br>Singleton |
|   | <u>8.50am</u><br>Rosary<br><u>9.20am</u><br>Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>Greta |  | <u>9.20am</u><br>Mass<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton   |   | <u>5.30pm</u><br>Reconciliation<br><u>6.00pm</u><br>Mass<br>St Brigid's<br>Branxton | <u>7.45am</u><br>Rosary<br><u>8.15am</u><br>Mass<br>St Catherine's<br>Greta                            |

*St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick and St Paul, and- pray for us*

# Weekly Notices

## **WELCOME TO OUR PARISH**

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

## **Our Churches Are COVID Safe**

Our churches are registered COVID Safe businesses with NSW Health. A copy of the COVID-19 Safety Plan is on the noticeboard for you to read with our conditions of entry. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta.

Please stay home and get tested if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms (even if they are mild):

- Fever (37.5° or higher)
- cough
- sore/scratchy throat
- shortness of breath
- loss of smell
- or loss of taste



**HAVE YOU CHECKED IN? Please ensure you have your name on the registration list or used the QR code to check-in today!**

## **Changes to Mass times**

Mass in Greta will be said at **8.15am** (instead of 8am) for the month of February 2021.

## **Ash Wednesday Mass Times**

Mass will be said for Ash Wednesday on 17 February 2021 at 8.00am in St Brigid's Branxton and 9.20am and 6.00pm in St Patrick's Singleton.

## **Senior Singles Lunch**

The Senior Singles Group will meet for their monthly lunch on Tuesday 9 February at 12pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. New members always welcomed!

## **Women's Guild Meeting**

The St Patrick's Women's Guild will hold their meeting at 1.30pm on Wednesday 10 February 2021 in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. New members welcome.

## **Come Pray the Rosary!**

You are invited to join us to pray the Holy Rosary at St Catherine's, Greta on Tuesday's from 8.50am, prior to our 9.20am Mass. We will be commencing praying of the Holy Rosary on Sunday's from Sunday 7 February 2021 prior to Mass at 7.45am. All are welcome from all Parishes to come along and help us raise as many voices to the Blessed Virgin Mary as we can.

## **Lenten Reflection Groups**

If you wish to join the Lenten reflection group, please place your name on the sheet on the noticeboard. This will be a five-week program during Lent 2021 (17 February – 31 March) based upon the Five Foundations of the Diocesan Synod Planning Framework:

- Identity and Community
- Worship and Prayer
- Formation and Education
- Mission and Outreach
- Leadership and Structure

The groups will be led by Synod members from our parishes. Peter Conroy from Branxton and John Bray from Singleton have volunteered to be synod members and their membership was approved by the Bishop. For more information about Synod visit the website [www.domnsynod.com.au](http://www.domnsynod.com.au)

## **Singleton Parish Fiesta 2021**

Everyone is invited to the annual St Patrick's Parish Fiesta in honour of Señor Santo Niño (*Holy Infant Jesus*) on Sunday 14 February 2021. Celebrations will commence at 10:00am Mass in St Patrick's Church, Singleton followed by lunch in the church yard catered by the community. With limited spaces in the church and the church yard you **MUST** register for both Mass (*including those who regularly attend*) and the lunch afterwards by placing your name on the list at the Church or contacting Frieda King on 0411 047 616. Raffle tickets will be sold prior to the day and all proceeds from the raffle and on the day will be donated to the Singleton Parish.

## **2021 Annual Catechist Mass**

Bishop Bill invites you to the annual celebration of the wonderful work our catechists achieve on Saturday 20 February 2021 at 2pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West followed by refreshments. This event is a great opportunity for priests, parishioners, families and friends to celebrate the ministry of Special Religious Education, Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA and Children's Liturgy. RSVP 4979 1193 by 5 February 2021.

## **Vietnamese community Lunar New Year**



The Parish wishes the Vietnamese community a very happy Lunar New Year for Friday 12 February! Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

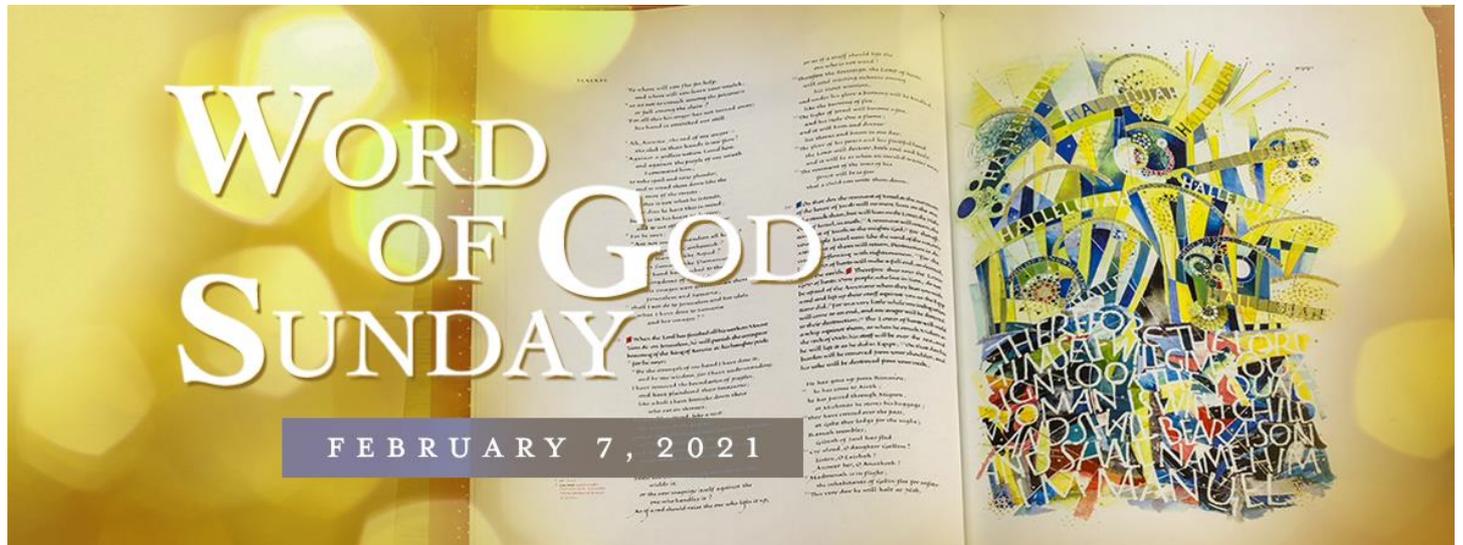
## **Commercial Space for Lease**

13 Campbell Street, Singleton is available for lease. Floor Area 420 m2 • Land Area 1200 m2 • Rear Access and Car Parking • Split Air Conditioner • Floor Coverings • Data Cabling • For further information contact Allan Cruickshanks Phone 0407 724 930 [acruickshanks.singleton@ljh.com.au](mailto:acruickshanks.singleton@ljh.com.au)

## ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCHES

Please see the noticeboard in each church for a full set of instructions which have been derived from a directive from the Office of the Bishop and will be in place to allow Public Mass to be celebrated in our Parishes, along with a copy of the COVID Safety Plan. We thank you for your assistance in complying with these conditions and in turn keeping our community safe and free from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This notice can also be found on the Parish website [www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au](http://www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au) and the Parish Facebook Page 'Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton'.

In accordance with the Public Health Order, public Mass, baptisms, funerals and weddings can be celebrated with a maximum of 160 people in St Patrick's Church, Singleton, 150 people St Brigid's Church, Branxton and 90 people in St Catherine's Church, Greta. Please ensure you have registered as you entered the church.



In September 2019, Pope Francis instituted the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

While most countries will celebrate the day on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February each year, starting with February 7 in 2021.



Synods seek to inspire missionary renewal and unity within the diocesan community. In this way they contribute to the shaping of the pastoral activities of the particular Church and lend continuity to its own liturgical, spiritual, and canonical traditions. Diocesan Synods are important instruments of collaboration and discernment effecting conciliar renewal.

The work of the Synod is to:

- assist the Bishop in his office of teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Christian community
- consult and collaborate with the diocesan community in order to build up the Body of Christ
- discern the will of the Spirit with the diocesan community, the pastoral activities and direction, for the good of the diocese
- foster a sense of communion and missionary renewal

The Diocesan Synod (2019-2021), to be held in three sessions, invites the People of God to carefully discern together what the Spirit is saying to the Church of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and to agree on common goals and actions for the coming years.

### SESSION TWO: DISCERNMENT - 21 MAY 2021

The second session of synod is open to both Delegates and Observers. The outcome of this Synod session will result in 'Statements of Intent' regarding desired outcomes emerging from information/data and documents gathered from the listening and dialogue phases of the Plenary Council and the first session of our diocesan synod.

If you are interested in attending the Synod you can still register at [www.domnsynod.com.au](http://www.domnsynod.com.au) or go to <https://mnnews.today/your-diocese/2021> for more Synod updates each week.